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ABSTRACT

This paper presents an overview of futures-related activities and organizations in Hawaii. Organizations described are: Commission on the Year 2000; Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies; Futures Research Program; Hawaii Chapter, World Future Society; and Hawaii's Future. Also described are educational programs related to futures study and conferences and meetings. (JLB)

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THE FUTURE AND WHERE IT'S AT IN HAWAII

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THE FUTURE AND WHERE IT'S AT IN HAWAII

The last three years have seen a remarkable growth of activity in studying, talking, and planning the future here in Hawaii. This upsurge of concern for long-ranged thinking and planning is, of course, related to a similar trend on the Mainland and, indeed, throughout most of the world. Contrary to many areas of thought and action wherein Hawaii tends to follow several years behind the trend set on the Mainland, U.S.A., in the field of futuristics, Hawaii can perhaps claim to be in the forefront.

A few very concrete examples, from the many available, may attest to this claim: 1) Hawaii was first to engage in a State-wide participatory futures planning exercise -- the Conference on the Year 2000, held in August of 1970; 2) Hawaii was the first state to establish a commission to continually deal with the issues related to the State's long-ranged future; 3) Hawaii has, according to a recent issue of THE FUTURIST, the greatest per-capita number of members in the World Future Society; and 4) Hawaii was the only state to have a common display and presentation at the World Future Society's First World Assembly held in May, 1971, in Washington, D. C.

As coordinator for the local chapter of the WFS, I thought it would serve all of our interests to have a handy overview of futures-related activities and organizations in Hawaii. What follows will certainly be incomplete, and in some places downright incorrect. But bear with me, I trust it will be better than nothing. If you have better information, please share it with me.

Futures Oriented Organizations in Hawaii

1. Commission on the Year 2000. Chairman, Mr. George Chaplin, Editor of The Honolulu Advertiser; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jerry Sumida, lawyer, plus seven members from various parts of the State.

Established by Act 96 of the 1970 Legislature of the State of Hawaii. Its mandate is "to study the impact of technology and social change in Hawaii -- and promote a general awareness of it. To assess the future of Hawaii and identify desired economic, political, cultural, social and environmental State goals. To recommend legislative and administrative actions to achieve these goals. To assist and coordinate activities of those groups concerned with the future of Hawaii."

Administered through the Center for Governmental Development, College of Continuing Education and Community Service, University of Hawaii, Mr. Kunio Nagoshi, Director. Eleven persons were named as advisors to the Commission.

Background: The Commission is an outgrowth of the Conference on the Year 2000 held in August of 1970. Mr. Chaplin, conference

chairman, was subsequently asked to head the Commission to carry through the work started by the conference. The Commission has been meeting since its formation; currently several sub-groups of the Commission are studying topic areas such as agriculture and tourism.

The Commission has sponsored or co-sponsored a number of activities including an ETV course called Tune to the Future, a conference on Major Issues in World Communications, and most recently the Citizens' Conference on the Administration of Justice. The Commission Chairman and many members of the Commission have taken part in a great number and variety of activities related to planning for the future. The Commission's report for its first year indicates a very high level of both formal and informal activity.

Current Status: While continuing its work, the Commission has been hampered by a lack of funds. It is hoped that the approval for the expenditure of appropriated funds will be forthcoming soon. Under the Commission's jurisdiction, the task force reports for the Conference on the Year 2000 have been revised with much editorial material added including conference talks or critiques by Robert Jungk, Yehezkel Dror, Arthur Clarke, John McHale, Hidetoshi Kato, Charles Williams, Saburo Okita, Raymond Studer and Hahn-Been Lee. The manuscript, titled "Hawaii 2000: Continuing Experiment in Anticipatory Democracy," has been accepted by the University Press of Hawaii for Spring, 1973, publication.

2. Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies. Staff - Mr. David Hagino.

Established by the Sixth Hawaii State Legislature, 1971. Its mandate under Act 178 is to: a) "serve as a research arm of the Commission on the Year 2000, the proposed Commission on Population Stabilization, and such other public agencies as may properly require its services and assistance in locating research experts for particular studies and in working out the dimensions and contractual arrangements for such studies. . ., b) encourage and promote invention and experimentation in futures study, planning and design. . ., c) maintain an inventory of studies, research, and other information, including groups or persons concerned with futures study, planning and design applicable to the State."

The Research Center was assigned to the University of Hawaii for administrative purposes and was subsequently attached to the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) of the University. In his capacity as head of the SSRI's Futures Research Program, Dr. James A. Dator assumed an advisory capacity in relation to the staff appointed by the Governor for the Center, Mr. David Hagino.

Since its inception, the Center has proposed a six-year plan for the continuation and growth of such a center; has collected information on other futures-related activities, especially from governmental agencies; and has sponsored an on-going seminar in futures research methodology.

Current Status: The funds made available to the Center will have been exhausted by the end of this summer. There is little likelihood that more funds will be made available in the near future. Mr. Hagino will continue to be the staff person through the summer. The research seminar will probably continue under University of Hawaii auspices.

3. The Futures Research Program, The Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii was initiated in the Fall of 1971 to provide a futures dimension to the research being done and proposed through the SSRI, and to engage in futures research and related activities. Dr. James A. Dator, professor of political science, agreed to head this program in return for SSRI support of various kinds.

Current program activities include the issuance of working papers, advising and assisting the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies, conducting the futures research seminar, the preparation of a several-thousand item computer retrieval bibliography of futures materials, and assisting the Lt. Governor's office in the formulation of long-ranged plans for West Hawaii.

Through the Futures Research Program at the SSRI, a major research grant proposal has been submitted to the National Science Foundation for support of a feasibility study -- from a socio-economic standpoint -- of the proposed floating city.

Current Status: The University of Hawaii Manoa Campus administration has encouraged Professor Dator to formulate plans for an expanded futures research and study program. The SSRI will continue to provide support in the form of space, supplies, and student assistance. For the program to be truly effective, however, it will require additional staff input which is not available at this time.

4. Hawaii Chapter, World Future Society. This organization was formally established in April, 1971. Coordinator, Richard Barber; Program Chairman, Dr. Walter Strode; Membership, Christ Zivalich; and Secretary/Treasurer, Al Kearney. The purpose of the World Future Society is "to contribute to a reasoned awareness of the future and the importance of its study. . ., to advance responsible and serious investigation of the future, to promote the development of methods for the study of the future, to increase public understanding of future-oriented studies, and to facilitate communication and cooperation among organizations and individuals interested in studying or planning for the future."

The operating philosophy of the current Hawaii chapter leadership is that the chapter should provide a facilitating role; that rather than the calling of regular, conventional meetings, the chapter should be open to and responsive to the varied desires of the chapter members.

Current Status: According to the March, 1972, WFS roster, Hawaii has ninety-nine individual members and twenty-six organizational members. Thirty-six of the ninety-nine members have also paid dues to

the local chapter as have forty-three other persons who are not members of the larger organization. In addition to the above categories, the local chapter maintains on its mailing list twenty other persons who have expressed a desire to be kept informed.

5. Hawaii's Future. A citizen's group formed immediately after the Conference on the Year 2000 by a number of individuals who wished to make certain the momentum of the conference would not be lost. Contact person is Ms. Debbie Coombs. As of April, 1971, their contact list numbered 60 individuals.

Futures Projects and Programs

In addition to the various institutionalized futures-related activities, a number of ongoing projects and programs should be noted.

1. Educational programs related to futures study.
   a.) Kailua High School humanities class in futuristics.
   b.) Maryknoll High School course in futures.
   c.) Hawaii Loa College's offering of evening course in futuristics.
   d.) University of Hawaii's course offerings in futures topics --

      Educational Foundations 397 - Tune to the Future
      Educational Foundations 684 - Education and World Order
      Engineering 203 - Technology and Society
      New College 202 - The World's Future
      Political Science 305 - Political Futuristics
      Political Science 335 - Applied Futuristics
      Political Science 670 - Advanced Futuristics
      Science 124 - Technology, Ecology, and Man
      Speech-Communication 397 - Communication and the Future

   (A number of additional courses in economics, planning, engineering, information sciences, political science, business, science, etc., are also related.)
   e.) New College, University of Hawaii, recently awarded a bachelor's degree to a student "majoring" in futuristics.
   f.) Liberal Studies -- has offered complete program in futuristics.
   g.) Survival Plus College -- primary concern is for the future.
   h.) East-West Center -- bringing futurist John McHale to the Center for several months. Planning to invite Asian futurists as well.

2. Conferences, speakers, meetings.
   a.) Citizen's Conference on the Administration of Justice. Met May, 1972; will establish working groups; will reconvene in August, 1972. Purpose: "a creative examination of problems, demands and challenges that can be anticipated to confront the Hawaii legal system within the next few decades and of alternative ways to meet and resolve these

problems and challenges." Speakers included Alvin Toffler and James Dator.
b.) A wide-ranging conference on alternative economic futures for Hawaii is to be sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, with matching funds from private firms, and with a leading corporation executive and the chairman of the Hawaii Commission On The Year 2000 as co-chairmen.
c.) Commission On Year 2000 speakers bureau has been established.
d.) Several well known futurists will be visiting Hawaii -- including Robert Theobald, Mary Jane Dunston, John and Magda McHale.
e.) A number of combined World Future Society and Society for International Development meetings are being planned. (The Limits to Growth panel discussion on June 22 is an example.)
f.) The United Nations' newly formed commission on the future has been invited to hold its inaugural meeting here in Hawaii.
g.) The local chapter of the American Society for Public Administration is exploring the possibility of discussions related to futuristics.
h.) Planning is now underway for a conference on the future of health care.
i.) University of Hawaii Professors Glenn D. Paige and James A. Dator plus Hawaii 2000 Commission member Keiji Kawakami will attend the Third International Futures Conference in Bucharest, Romania, in late Summer, 1972.

A sampling of past activities should round out the picture of the level of futuristic involvement in Hawaii. This includes Jim Dator's semester-long ETV course, "Tune to the Future"; literally dozens of multi-media presentations and talks by him including a special presentation to the Hawaii 200 Bicentennial Conference; involvement by several persons in a six-week series Lenten discussion of Toffler's Future Shock; a series of articles in the newspapers concerning differing life styles, Future Shock and challenges to Hawaii's Future; the exchange of information between a number of interested groups and individuals; and the attendance by Commission member Keiji Kawakami to the White House Conference on the Industrial World Ahead: A Look at Business in 1990.

Futures Overlaps

To obtain a comprehensive picture of the Hawaii futures situation, one must also be aware of the overlaps and interconnectedness of the organizations and activities mentioned thus far. This can, perhaps, be best accomplished through a listing of some of the more visible actors and the roles they play.

George Chaplin: Chairman, Commission on the Year 2000
Member, World Future Society
Editor, Hawaii 2000, (report on Conference on Year 2000)
Member, Hawaii's Future

...s A. Dator: Advisor, Commission on the Year 2000
Member, World Future Society
Editor, Human Futuristics, published by the Social Science Research Institute
Program Director, SSRI futures research program
Supervisor, Hawaii Center for Futures Research (housed in the SSRI)
Professor, classes in futuristics at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Campus

...n D. Paige: Editor, Hawaii 2000 (conference report)
Program Chairman, Conference on the Year 2000
Advisor, Commission on the Year 2000
Researcher, Social Science Research Institute

...y Sumida: Vice-Chairman, Commission on the Year 2000
Member, Hawaii's Future
Member, World Future Society

R...ard J. Barber: Coordinator, Hawaii Chapter, World Future Society
Assistant Director, Social Science Research Institute
Advisor, Commission on the Year 2000
Member, Hawaii's Future

What's Ahead?

leaders ...s encouraging to note the willingness of Hawaii's public
justifia... ...scuss and plan for alternative futures. While some may
directio... ...complain that there is too little movement in certain
on the p... ...nonetheless, the forum is open. The desire and commitment
thinking ...f the planners to involve the citizens of the State in
matched ... voicing opinions about future options is probably not ...here else in the United States.

into the ...s it that Hawaii exhibits such a willingness to look far
ideas? ...ure and what makes the people here more receptive to new
with de... ...ould certainly take a concerted research study to come up
sense no... ...ve answers to these questions. However, a few common-
raised ... ...s seem to provide at least partial answers. For the people
learned ... ...aii it might be said that in growing up they naturally
the indi... ...el at home in a pluralistic ethnic society, thus allowing
For thos... ...al to view the world comparatively, allowing for diversity.
constitu... ...ming to Hawaii by choice, it might be reasoned that they
more ope... special segment of the population -- more adventurous,
of State... ...new places and ideas. For Hawaii as a whole, the newness
bases ma... ...and a history of varied forms of government and economic
say our ... added to these factors which tolerate change. Some, too,
that Haw... climate is a liberalizing factor. It is also possible
sharply ... ...s true dependence upon the rest of the world -- as brought ...o focus by any prolonged dock strike -- has given the

residents of Hawaii a true awareness of the inter-dependence of the entire world, and consequently a more systemic outlook on life.

The climate for such discussion is good. The State Legislature is far ahead of sister bodies on the Mainland in bringing the laws of Hawaii into tune with the culture of the Islands. The executive branch of the State government and of the county governments lends support to such projects as "population dispersal," State-wide planning, modeling, etc. The University of Hawaii is encouraging the establishment of a broader based program in both futures research and futures study. Several research projects, such as the modeling of Kaneohe Bay, the proposed study of the floating city, the establishment of computer retrieval data banks on various aspects of Hawaii, and the experimental use of the ATS-1 communications satellite, all emphasize Hawaii's desire to move into the future, not looking through a rear-view mirror, but looking forward.

Certainly, some of the major forces which shape our lives and our future are not to be denied, and are not to be easily altered by discussion, planning, and study. I am thinking primarily of existing and new technologies, and of the economic system of which the Islands are a part. For the long-ranged future of Hawaii one may legitimately ask: What should be Hawaii's legal, economic and social relationship to the USA? What about the rest of the world? What level and kind of technology will enhance the lives of the peoples of Hawaii? This latter question, of course, leads to the most basic question we have to grapple with, namely, what are the forms of life, of life styles, of social organizations which we desire for the future?

Planning for the future is a complex frustrating and exciting task. It is also one which is by definition inexact and doomed to failure, by some degree or another. We will never know exactly what will happen if we do "X." If we were able to predict exactly the outcomes of our actions, we simply would not be human beings as we know ourselves today and we would not have the excitement of the unknown. Perhaps what Whitehead said is true, that "it is the business of the future to be dangerous."

Given the rapid changes, the challenges of new technologies, the "shrinkage" of the world, the emergence of new life styles, etc., it does seem imperative that we do the best we can in coping with this change and projected change. Imaginative thinking and long-ranged planning are essential in this task. To solve yesterday's problems today is no longer sufficient. If there is one community which has a chance to create its own future, Hawaii is it.